

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - December 6, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced the unsealing today of an 11-count indictment charging Luc Tran, Ninh Tran, Hung Nguyen, Han Nguyen, Minh Huong Bui Muller, Phat Tan Huynh, Andy Nhat Huynh, Victor Africa Galang, Andy Tran, and Willy Tran with multiple narcotics offenses, including Conspiracy to Distribute and Distribution of Marijuana, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, and Ecstasy. A federal grand jury sitting in San Diego handed up the indictment on November 17, 2006, which was then sealed until today's arrests.

According to the Indictment, Luc Tran engaged in multiple conspiracies with other defendants to distribute methamphetamine, cocaine, and Ecstasy; undercover agents conducted negotiations and purchased narcotics from several defendants on multiple occasions.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Tokarz, who is prosecuting the case, defendants were arrested earlier today and are expected to be arraigned at upcoming court appearances this week before Magistrate Judge William McCurine, Jr. Defendants Hung Nguyen and Victor Africa Galang are currently in custody on other unrelated charges.

The arrests and the indictment are the culmination of a four-year joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

U.S. Attorney Lam said, "These defendants poisoned the community with any kind of drug they could get their hands on."

FBI, Special Agent in Charge, Daniel R. Dzwilewski said, "This investigation has effectively dismantled a criminal enterprise involved in distributing dangerous drugs in our community, and made San Diego a safer place to live. It also provides another example of the FBI's efforts to work with our law enforcement partners in combating a major crime problem facing our community."

DEA Acting Special Agent in Charge Alan Poleszak stated that, "It was called Operation 'Lucky Deal' yet luck had nothing to do with it. Dogged persistence by DEA, FBI, and IRS ensured the individuals indicted in this investigation now understand drug trafficking is a bad game of chance. Those who choose to play, do so against the odds."

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 06cr2450-LAB

Luc Tran
Ninh Tran
Hung Nguyen
Han Nguyen
Minh Huong Bui Muller
Phat Tan Huynh
Andy Nhat Huynh
Victor Africa Galang
Andy Tran
Willy Tran

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Count: 1

Charges: Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine
Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846.
Maximum Penalty: Life in prison and a \$4,000,000 fine.

Count 2

Charges: Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine
Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846.
Maximum Penalty: 40 years in prison and a \$2,000,000 fine.

Count 3
Charges: Conspiracy to Distribute MDMA (Ecstasy)
Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846.
Maximum Penalty: 20 years in prison and a \$1,000,000 fine.

Count: 4
Charges: Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute
Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).
Maximum Penalty: 40 years in prison and a \$2,000,000 fine.

Count 5
Charges: Distribution of Marijuana
Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).
Maximum Penalty: 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Counts 6-7, 10-11
Charges: Distribution of MDMA (Ecstasy)
Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).
Maximum Penalty: 20 years in prison and a \$1,000,000 fine.

Count 8
Charges: Distribution of Methamphetamine
Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).
Maximum Penalty: 20 years in prison and a \$1,000,000 fine.

Count 9
Charges: Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute
Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).
Maximum Penalty: Life in prison and a \$4,000,000 fine.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Drug Enforcement Administration
Internal Revenue Service

An indictment is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.